

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 216 - HB 185

March 10, 2017

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) to issue free permanent sport fishing and hunting licenses to Tennesseans who have a 30 percent or more military service-connected disability, instead of a free sport fishing and hunting license. Authorizes TWRA to issue a sport hunting and fishing license for a fee of \$10 to Tennesseans who are honorably discharged veterans. Deletes provision authorizing TWRA to issue a permanent sport combination hunting and fishing license upon a one-time fee of \$10 to Tennessee veterans who are 100 percent permanently and totally service connected disabled.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Decrease State Revenue - \$910,400/Wildlife Resources Fund

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 70-2-104(a)(2), TWRA currently issues free sport fishing and hunting licenses to Tennesseans who have a 30 percent or more military service-connected disability; therefore, requiring such licenses to be permanent is estimated to not result in a significant decrease in state revenue.
- There are 503,675 veterans in Tennessee, of which 104,365 disabled veterans are already eligible for a discounted license; as a result, 399,310 (503,675 - 104,365) honorably discharged veterans will become eligible to purchase the sport and fishing license for a fee of \$10.
- It is assumed that the new sport hunting and fishing license will be issued annually, and that 50 percent of those eligible are over 65 years of age and entitled to a \$5 senior license and will not purchase the \$10 license as proposed; therefore, it is estimated that 199,655 (399,310 x .50) honorably discharged veterans will potentially buy the new license.
- Based on information provided by TWRA, 19 percent of Tennesseans purchase hunting and fishing licenses each year; therefore, it is estimated that 37,934 (199,655 x 19.0%) honorably discharged veterans will pursue the new license.
- The current cost of an annual hunting and fishing combination (type 01) license is \$34.
- The proposed bill would allow eligible veterans to purchase the same license for \$10; as a result, there would be a decrease of \$24 (\$34 - \$10) per license sold by TWRA.

- The recurring decrease in state revenue to the Wildlife Resources Fund is estimated to be \$910,416 (\$24 per license x 37,934).

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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